IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend /replace claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Please cancel claim 10 without prejudice and add new claims 11-14.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A system for developing ~~creating and using~~ a software application for manipulating data associated with an asset ~~a petroleum company~~, comprising:

at least one processing unit;

a. at least one memory store operatively connected to the processing unit;

b. extensible N-tier software resident in and executable within the at least one processing unit;

c. an inventory of software components resident in the memory store ~~for use by the N-tier software, at least one software component being selectively representative of a requirement of an asset of the petroleum company~~ wherein a plurality of tiers are generated from the inventory of software components using the N-tier software, each tier being associated with at least one other tier, and each tier comprising a plurality of software components and performing a predetermined function relating to an asset, each software component comprising a software object;

d. an input device~~,~~ operatively in communication with the processing unit; and

e. an output device~~,~~ operatively in communication with the processing unit~~; and~~

f. ~~at least one tier created by the extensible N-tier software, the tier comprising at least one software component, the tier further representing at least one asset of the petroleum company and performing a well-defined business function.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ at least one software component ~~comprises~~ represents <u>one of an</u> oil field <u>component</u> ~~components~~, <u>an oil</u> well <u>component</u> ~~components~~, and <u>an oil well</u> log <u>component</u> ~~components~~ ~~capable of selectively representing predetermined oil field, well, and related~~ ~~requirements~~.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein the output device ~~display~~ is responsive to inputs from the input device, the N-tier software, <u>and</u> <u>an application</u> ~~applications~~ generated using the N-tier software, or a combination thereof.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein additional software components <u>are developed</u> ~~may be created~~ or modified manually by user input, <u>or</u> automatically by <u>an application</u> ~~applications~~ generated using the N-tier software in response to <u>at least one</u> internal <u>trigger</u> ~~triggers~~, <u>or</u> automatically by <u>an</u> <u>application</u> ~~applications~~ generated using the N-tier software in response to <u>at least one</u> external <u>trigger</u> ~~triggers~~, or a combination thereof.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method <u>for</u> ~~of~~ <u>developing</u> ~~creation of~~ a software application to manipulate <u>data associated with</u> a selected set of assets<u>,</u> ~~of a~~ ~~petroleum company, for a system comprising at least one processing unit, at least one~~ ~~memory store operatively connected to the processing unit, N-tier software executable~~ ~~within the at least one processing unit, software architecture specifications resident in~~ ~~the memory store for use by the N-tier software, an input device, operatively in~~ ~~communication with the processing unit, an output device, a communications pathway~~ ~~operatively connected to the processing unit, an initial set of software components~~ ~~where each software component selectively represents at least one asset of the set of~~ ~~assets, at least one tier where the tier comprises at~~ ~~last~~ <u>least</u> ~~one software component~~ ~~and represents at least one asset of the set of assets and performs a well-defined~~ ~~business function, the method~~ comprising:

a. selecting a <u>first</u> software component from an inventory of software components <u>to perform a first function relating to</u> ~~selectively represent requirements for each of~~ a selected set of assets;

b. ~~obtaining~~ <u>selecting</u> a <u>second</u> software component from outside the inventory <u>of software components to perform a second function</u> ~~for each requirements not satisfied by a software component from the inventory~~;

c. ~~defining relationships for each selected software component and obtained software component to at least one other software component, the relationships including association of each selected software component with a tier~~

<u>defining a plurality of tiers generated from at least the inventory of software components, each tier being associated with at least one other tier, each tier comprising a plurality of the software components and performing a predetermined function, each software component comprising a software object, the first software component being assigned to a first tier and the second software component being assigned to either the first tier or a second tier;</u>

d. defining the sequencing of <u>the first and second</u> ~~each of~~ the software components <u>in order to manipulate data associated with the selected set of assets</u> ~~into an invocable application~~;

e. ~~whereby requirements of the software application to manipulate the set of assets are satisfied~~.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 5 further comprising:

a. selecting a well component from ~~an~~ <u>the</u> inventory of software components to selectively represent requirements for a predetermined number of wells;

b. selecting a log component from ~~an~~ <u>the</u> inventory of software components to selectively represent requirements for a predetermined number of log components;

c. selecting a field component from ~~an~~ <u>the</u> inventory of software components to selectively represent requirements for a predetermined number of fields; and

d.   associating <u>the well component with the log component and the field component</u> ~~one or more well components with one or more field components and one or more log components~~.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 5 further comprising providing each software component with a change menu wherein the change menu <u>is</u> ~~may be~~ manually accessed, programmatically accessed, or a combination thereof.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 5 further comprising <u>developing</u> ~~creating~~ one or more ~~processing~~ software components to process data wherein the processing software components are created under programmatic control and <u>process the data</u> ~~perform the required processing on those data~~ upon receipt of a predefined amount of data.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 5 ~~for a plurality of processing units~~ wherein the software components are distributed among the plurality of processing units.

Claim 10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (new): An article of manufacture, comprising:

a computer storage medium having a computer program encoded therein for developing a software application to manipulate data associated with a selected set of assets, the computer storage medium including:

code for selecting a first software component from an inventory of software components to perform a first function relating to the set of assets;

code for selecting a second software component from outside the inventory to perform a second function;

code for defining a plurality of tiers from the inventory of software components, each tier being associated with at least one other tier, each tier comprising a plurality of the software components and performing a predetermined function, each software component comprising a software object, the first software component being assigned to a tier and the second software component being assigned to a tier; and

code for defining the sequencing of the first and second software components in order to manipulate data associated with the set of assets.

Claim 12 (new): The article of manufacture of claim 11 wherein the set of assets comprises a set of physical assets.

Claim 13 (new): The article of manufacture of claim 12 wherein the physical assets comprise at least one of an oil well and an oil field.

Claim 14 (new): The system of claim 1, wherein the asset comprises an asset of a petroleum company.